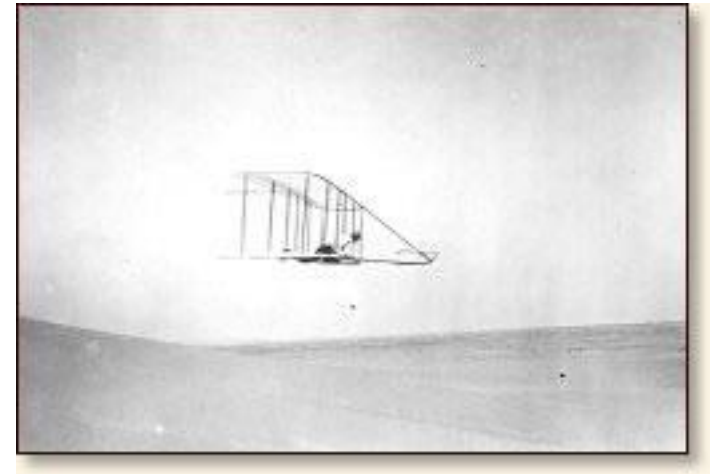


THE WRIGHT BROTHERS - FIRST FLIGHT



THE BEGINNING OF THE FLIGHT

The brothers (Orville and Wilbur Wright) began their experimentation in flight in 1896 at their bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio. They selected the beach at Kitty Hawk as their proving ground because of the constant wind that added lift to their craft. In 1902 they came to the beach with their glider and made more than 700 successful flights.

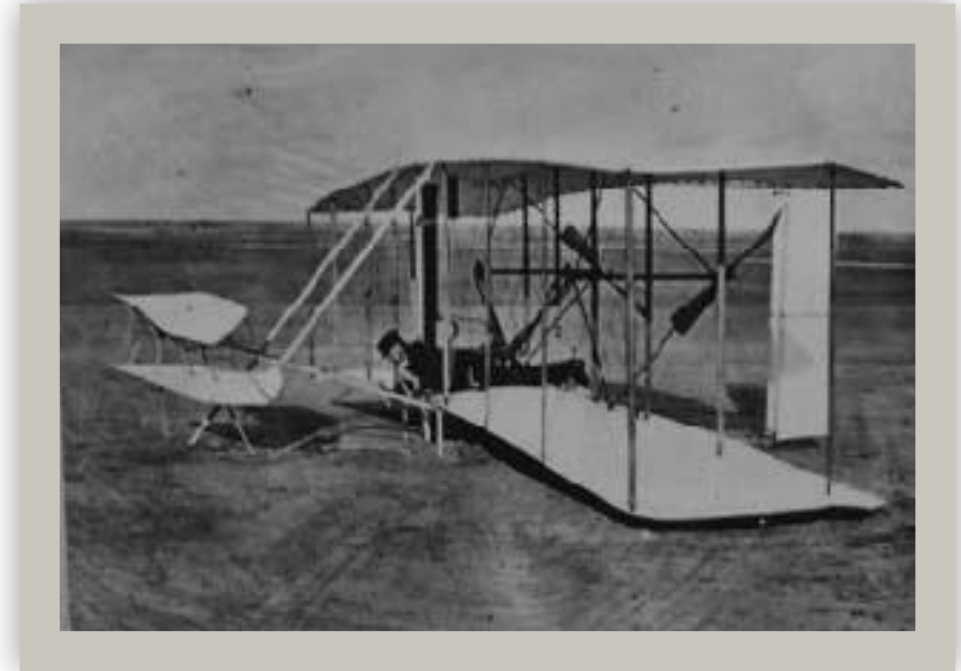


Wilbur flies a glider in earlier tests
Kitty Hawk, Oct. 10, 1902.



FIRST PLANE

Having perfected glided flight, the next step was to move to powered flight. No automobile manufacturer could supply an engine both light enough and powerful enough for their needs. So they designed and built their own. All of their hard work, experimentation and innovation came together that December day as they took to the sky and forever changed the course of history.



FIRST FLIGHT

On December 17, 1903, Orville Wright piloted the first powered airplane 20 feet above a wind-swept beach in North Carolina. The flight lasted 12 seconds and covered 120 feet. Three more flights were made that day with Orville brother Wilbur piloting the record flight lasting 59 seconds over a distance of 852 feet.



Wilbur looks on as Orville pilots the first powered flight



VIDEO OF THE FIRST FLIGHT

